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ISRAEL

in telling your readers that those of us who are critical of the official solutions of the assassination of President Kennedy (the FBI and Secret Service solutions disagree with that of the Warren Report), you repeat the drivel of AP and Reuters, label us all as "conspiracy theorists," and mislead and misinform your readers.

I am the author of the first of these books and of five others and there is not a word of theory in any of them. The official solutions, however, are only theories. The crime itself was never investigated officially. Instead, all official investigators strove to give the untenable lone-assassin theory what credibility they could.

Conspiracy is a matter of fact, not of theory. If the crime was beyond the capability of one man, then it absolutely was a conspiracy. Nobody in the world has been able to duplicate the shooting attributed to Lee Harvey Oswald, and the best marksmen were used by the government. (Oswald was evaluated by the Marine Corps as "a rather poor shot.")

Selecting an atypical passage from Mark Lane's book, which was dated by the time it appeared, grossly misrepresents the substantial critical literature and the means by which it brought misrepresented and suppressed fact to light. In addition to what the Warren Commission disclosed, I, for example, filed numerous lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act, obtaining about a third of a million such pages of mostly withheld official records.

There was the outpouring of ^{anniversary} nostalgia you report by the major TV networks and the print press; there was much cheap exploitation, of which the selection from the silly James Reston, Jr., book you quote is a minor example; and there was widespread repetition of the official mythology. But there also was a substantial, factual and already honored documentary I hope Israeli audiences can see.

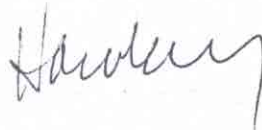
Gerard (Chip) Selby, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, produced this documentary entitled "Reasonable Doubt" as his master's thesis. He does no theorizing. He examines and destroys the official mythology of the "single bullet theory," the Commission's means of evading the proof that no one shooter could have committed this terrible crime.

"Reasonable Doubt" won the prestigious ^{GOLDEN} "Eagle" award in the history division of the national documentary competition by the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events. It was shown on Arts & Entertainment TV cable from coast to coast, getting exceptionally good ratings. I do hope Israeli TV viewers can see it so they can judge for themselves who the theorizers are and whether or not there was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

As I think Israelis may understand better than Americans, whatever the intention of the assassins of a head of state, that crime has the effect of a coup d'etat.

The world, so much worse off for this terrible crime, deserves better information about it than it gets.

Harold Weisberg



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P.S. If you think I exaggerate in any way, particularly in saying that the crime itself was never investigated, your correspondent is welcome to come here and can have free and unsupervised access to this great volume of official records. From the lowest level, FBI agents in Dallas, to the highest, the acting attorney general, beginning the instant of the crime, these records once suppressed reflect official intention not to investigate the crime. I keep a selection of these at hand for those interested in seeing them. We are about an hour from Washington.

H.W.